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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-sixth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Coordination questions: New Partnership for Africa's Development
(*Item 4 (b)*)

United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

1. At its 9th meeting, on 3 June 2016, the Committee considered the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (E/AC.51/2016/5).

2. The Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa introduced the report and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. Delegations expressed appreciation to and support for the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and commended the Special Adviser on the comprehensiveness of the report and the details provided therein.

4. Delegations expressed support for the work of the Office in strengthening the coherence, coordination and effectiveness of the support provided by the United Nations system to NEPAD, including in the context of the constant and transformative changes taking place both in Africa and globally.

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5. Delegations encouraged continued efforts in support of NEPAD and Africa in the areas of socioeconomic development, peace and security, human rights, infrastructure development, agriculture and food security, industry, trade and market access, good governance, gender equality and women's empowerment, environment, population and urbanization, social and human development, and the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. Moreover, it was noted that Africa remained high on the list of priorities for the period 2018-2019 in the plan outline.

6. Delegations reiterated the need to continue to provide support to African Member States, the African Union and the African regional economic communities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework on Climate Change. Clarification was sought regarding the challenges faced by the Office in its collaboration with the African Union, the African Development Bank and the African regional economic communities.

7. Delegations emphasized the importance of bilateral, triangular, multilateral and South-South cooperation, such as the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, among other partnerships, in mobilizing resources and supporting the implementation of NEPAD and Africa's development. Support was expressed for the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation and its outcomes.

8. Clarification was sought regarding the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development by African countries and their development partners, in particular, the status of the second biennial report and when it would be published. Delegations emphasized that implementation of the mandate related to the monitoring mechanism also required the strengthened capacity of the Office. In that regard, delegations noted with concern the continued delay in recruitment of the approved capacities in the Office and stressed the need for the Office to take immediate action to recruit all the approved capacities without further delay.

9. Delegations emphasized the importance of enhanced United Nations system coordination in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa and urged that the newly established Global Infrastructure Forum be aligned with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and incorporated in the work of the Office and the Regional Coordination Mechanism.

10. Clarification was sought regarding the compatibility, coherence and synergies existing between the 2030 Agenda and the African Union adopted Agenda 2063 and its first 10-year implementation plan, notably the enhancement of the synergies and complementarities between the global and regional frameworks, as well as the facilitation of the mainstreaming, domestication and implementation of all the development frameworks in Africa.

11. Clarification was also sought regarding the reference made in the report to the African Union's Year of Human Rights with a Particular Focus on the Rights of Women, notably the conclusion that the United Nations system should strengthen its coordination and enhance its support for the acceleration of the implementation of all commitments relating to gender equality, the empowerment of women and the protection of the rights of women. The query raised by a delegation was focused on that aspect only, not on the treatment of all human rights aspects equally.

12. Moreover, clarification was sought regarding the role of the Office in conflict and peace mediation and conflict prevention in African countries such as Burundi and Guinea-Bissau, and interventions in mobilizing support from the United Nations system and bilateral development partners. Clarification was also sought on the role of the Office in supporting United Nations-African Union peace and security cooperation, notably with regard to mobilizing international support for the African Union Mission in Somalia and addressing the deteriorating situation in Burundi.

13. While noting and welcoming the partnership on Africa's integration and development agenda for 2017-2027, a successor programme to the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, which would expire in December 2016, delegations also noted the challenges faced by the United Nations in providing support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme owing to the lack of dedicated financial resources for the Regional Coordination Mechanism-Africa clusters and for the implementation of the partnership.

14. Delegations expressed concern over the lack of resources and funding in support of implementation of the global and regional development frameworks in Africa.

15. Delegations noted the high level of implementation and achievements of programme 15, Economic and social development in Africa, in the programme performance report for the period 2014-2015 and sought clarification regarding lessons learned and challenges leading to such performance. Clarification was also sought regarding the linkages between the indicators of achievement of the strategic framework of programme 9, United Nations support for NEPAD, and the findings contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/AC.51/2016/5).

Conclusions and recommendations

16. **The Committee welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2016/5) and recommended that the General Assembly should endorse the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraphs 112 to 121 of the report.**

17. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to continue to include, in his future reports, detailed information relating to the possible outcomes of the achievements of NEPAD targets.**

18. **The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should reiterate its request to the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to promote greater coherence in their work in support of NEPAD, on the basis of the agreed clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, and called upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all its normative and operational activities, including the financing of programmes and projects, resource mobilization and humanitarian assistance.**

19. **The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly should request the organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely with the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, as the technical body of the African Union, and other structures of the African Union Commission and the Partnership in order to support strategic plans of the**

African Union Commission and the 10-year implementation plan for the African Union Agenda 2063.

20. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly should request the United Nations system to continue to strengthen its support for the implementation of the NEPAD strategic plans and programmes in the context of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris climate agreement.

21. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should emphasize the need for the organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental bodies to continue to take into consideration the views, comments and/or input of regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, in their policy formulations and decision-making, mainly in the areas of mediation, conflict prevention and peace and security, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and in full respect of the principles of ownership, impartiality and consent of the parties.

22. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to ensure that activities under the United Nations system support for NEPAD in the areas of mediation and conflict prevention are harmonized and take into account existing mechanisms in the region and subregion, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap, in accordance with the Charter and in full respect of the principles of ownership, impartiality and consent of the parties.

23. The Committee recommended that the reports of the Secretary-General on NEPAD should continue to include information not only on seminars, workshops and meetings but also on other tangible actions and results in respect of United Nations system support for projects of the Partnership throughout Africa, while stressing that future reports should further enhance the focus on the impact, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, of the activities implemented by entities of the United Nations system in support of the Partnership, with regard to the resources.

24. The Committee commended the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to include information on the activities undertaken by the Office in the areas of advocacy and analytical work, coherence and coordination and facilitation of intergovernmental deliberations relating to the provision of support by the United Nations system to the NEPAD agenda.

25. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General, in the context of his report on NEPAD, to include information on the activities undertaken to provide support to countries to address concerns regarding the protection of women and children, including from sexual violence.

26. The Committee emphasized the need for United Nations entities to continue their efforts in support of the region to address new challenges relating to governance, extremism and terrorism, and those faced by young people, and recommended that the Secretary-General should include information in that regard in his report.

27. The Committee recognized the important role played by the development of hard infrastructure in Africa, in particular energy, railways and highways, and recommended that the General Assembly should reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize United Nations system support in that area, in particular for the initiatives of the regional economic communities.

28. The Committee emphasized the need for the continued implementation of activities relating to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to ensure that future reports on NEPAD continue to provide information in that regard.

29. The Committee noted with concern the continued delay in the recruitment of personnel to implement the mandates related to the monitoring mechanism and recommended that the General Assembly should request the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to ensure that all approved capacity in the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is recruited as a matter of priority and without further delay so as to avoid a negative impact on mandate delivery.